

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 to 7 as presented in the underlying International Application No. PCT/EP2004/010566 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims as indicated in the listing of claims below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (new): A method for performing inter-vehicle distance control on a vehicle comprising:

 determining an actual value of a distance variable describing a distance between the vehicle and a vehicle traveling in front;

 determining a plurality of weighting values for the distance variable as a function of input variables describing a driving situation of the vehicle and/or an ambient situation of the vehicle and/or a driving behavior of a driver;

 combining the weighting values in a first computing step to form a combined value for the distance variable and determining a set point value for the distance variable as a function of the combined value;

 actuating a brake and/or driving device of the vehicle so that the determined actual value of the distance variable assumes the determined set point value of the distance variable;

 and in a second computing step, restricting the combined value to a predefined value range.

Claim 9 (new): The method as recited in claim 8 further comprising determining the set point value of the distance variable from the restricted combined value.

Claim 10 (new): The method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the combining of the weighting

values is a multiplicative operation.

Claim 11 (new): The method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the multiplicative operation is the geometric average of the weighting values.

Claim 12 (new): The method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the value range is defined by predefining an upper and a lower limiting value for the combined value, the upper and lower limiting values being predefined as a function of driving state variables describing a driving state of the vehicle.

Claim 13 (new): The method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the combined value for determining the set point value of the distance variable is multiplied by a predefined reference value for the distance variable, the reference value being predefined as a function of driving state variables describing the driving state of the vehicle.

Claim 14 (new): The method as claimed in claim 12 further comprising issuing a driver warning to the driver of the vehicle if the determined actual value of the distance variable drops below the set point value of the distance variable which is given by the lower limiting value of the combined value.

Claim 15 (new): A device for performing inter-distance control on a vehicle comprising:
an evaluation unit determining an actual value of a distance variable describing a distance between the vehicle and a vehicle traveling in front, the evaluation unit determining a plurality of weighting values for the distance variable as a function of input variables describing a driving situation of the vehicle and/or an ambient situation of the vehicle and/or a driving behavior of a driver, the evaluation unit combining the weighting values in a first computing step to form a combined value for the distance variable, the evaluation unit in turn determining a set point value for the distance variable as a function of the combined value, the evaluation unit actuating a brake and/or driving device of the vehicle so that the determined actual value of the distance variable assumes the determined set point value of the distance variable, and in a second computing step the evaluation unit restricting the combined value to a predefined value range.

Claim 16 (new): The device as recited in claim 15 wherein the evaluation unit determines the set point value of the distance variable as a function of the restricted combined value.